

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01126 01 OF 02 241846Z

46

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 ARA-06

NEA-10 EB-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 /119 W

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P R 221650Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6930

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 263

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GABORONE 1126

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, KN, KS, IS, BC

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA - KEY ISSUES

REF: A. STATE 195243

B. STATE 195240

C. STATE 191465

D. STATE 170841

E. STATE 158345

F. STATE 0931000

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DEMARCHES BY ME AND THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, GOB HAS DECIDED (A) SUPPORT HOSTILE KOREAN RESOLUTION, (B) NORTH KOREAN NAC MEMBERSHIP AND (V) POSSIBLE VOTE IN UNGA FOR SUSPENSION OR EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL ON THE GROUNDS IT HAS CONTINUOUSLY FLOUTED UN RESOLUTIONS. IN MY VIEW
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01126 01 OF 02 241846Z

GOB POSITION ON THESE ISSUES CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT SOUTHERN

AFRICAN PROBLEM. BOTSWANA'S STANCE IS PROBABLY INFLUENCED BY COMPLETE POLITICAL, DEPLOMATIC AND MORAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY NORTH KOREA TO THE AFRICANS IN TRYING TO ISOLATE SOUTH AFRICA AND BY THE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS. ALSO GOB CONTINUED DEMONSTRATING SOLIARITY WITH OAU AND SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM ABOUT ITS NON-ALIGNED CREDIBILITY PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SOUTHAFRICANS IN WORKING FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. BOTFWANA'S POSITION ON ISRAEL IS PUZZLING BUT PROBABLY INFLUENCED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE AND I HAVE CONSULTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AND MADE REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. I MEY WITH MIINSTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE ON AUGUST 20 TO DISCUSS THE KOREAN ISSUE AND DREW HEAVILY ON REFTELS. I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE WOULD CO-SPONSOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA AND, FAILING THAT, TO VOTE AGAINST THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND SUPPORT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER FOLLOWED UP SAME DAY WITH CALL ON PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TIBONE.SMINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HIS STAFF MET WITH PRESIDENT ON AUGUST 21 TO DISCUSS KOREA AND OTHER UN ITEMS. MOGWE GAVE ME THE GOB DECISIONS IN A MEETING ON AUGUST 22.

3. RESOLUTIONS ON KOREA. THE GOB DECIDED TO VOTE AGAINST THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND TO SUPPORT THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION. MOGWE SAID THE GOB COULD NOT SUPPORT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO UN APPROVAL OF "BILATERAL" ARRANGEMENT FOR CONTINUED U.S. TROOP PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA. MOGWE SAID GOB RECOGNIZED THAT U.S. TROOPS WERE IN SOUTH KOREA UNDER MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. HOWEVER, "IF TH PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS IS A STUMBLING BLOCK TO NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION, THE GOB SUPPORTS THE WITHDRAWAL OF SUCH TROOPS". MOGWE SAID THE GOB SAW NO REASON WHY THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS TO NEARBY BASES WOULD AFFECT THA VALIDITY OF THE U.S. MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AS A DETERRENT TO RENEWED HOSTILITIES. THE GOB FEELS THAT THE OBJECTIVES IN KOREA SHOULD BE APEACE TREATY, AND IF THE KOREANS WANT A PEACE TREATY, THE GOB WAS NOT OPPOSED. MOGWE FRONTEND THAT THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WAS A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT TO SUSPEND A STATE OF BILLIGERENCY AND THAT A LASTING PEACE WAS NEEDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GABORO 01126 01 OF 02 241846Z

IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

4. I REITERATED TO MOGWE THAT THE U.S.-ROK RESOLUTION WAS A LOGICAL STEP TOWARD REUNIFICATION ANB A POLITICAL SETTLEMTN AS PROVIDED IN THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE AREA. I SAY TO HIM REPEATEDLY THAT DISSOLUTION OF THE UNC IN THE ABSENCE OF ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION THE SIGNERS OF

THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. I ALSO TOLD HIM IT WAS RIDICULOUS TO EXPECT THE U.S. TO WITHDRAW TROOPS AND SOUTH KOREA TO REDUCE ITS MILITARY CAPABILITY IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING TENSIONS IN THE AREA. I STRESSED THAT THE PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS HAD NOT IN FACT HINDERED THE INITIATION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH TALKS IN 1972 WHICH WERE SUSPENDED BY THE OTHER SIDE. I NOTED THAT THE U.S. AND ROK HAVE REPEATEDLY OFFERED TO DISCUSS ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENT AND AS RECENTLY AS AUGUST 8 THE ROK HAD CALLED FOR A FULL-DRESS MEETING BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. MOGWE RESPONDED BY REPEATING THAT A PEACE TREATY WAS NEEDED AND THAT SOUTH KOREA SHOULD DECLARE ITS INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE SUCH A TREATY. I TOLD MOGWE THAT THE LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT HOSTILE RESOLUTION ABOUT NEGOTIATING WITH THE "REAL PARTIES CONCERNED", EXCLUDING SOUTH KOREA, WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE ALLEGED DESIRE OF THE NORTH KOREANS TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE SETTLEMENT. I STATED THAT NORTH KOREA SEEMS TO WANT CONFRONTATION. I SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY BOTSWANA WOULD SUPPORT A NEGOTIATING ARRANGEMENT THAT EXCLUDED SOUTH KOREA. MOGWE SAID THAT GOB DID NOT AGREE WITH THE U.S. INTERPRETATION OF THE LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT HOSTILE RESOLUTION. HE SAID THE GOB CERTAINLY FELT THAT SOUTH KOREA SHOULD BE A PARTY TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT BOTSWANA WAS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND REUNIFICATION OF KOREA AND THEY WERE PERSUADED BY THE ARGUMENT THAT THE U.S. TROOP PRESENCE WAS AN OBSTACLE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES.

5. NAC LIMA. FOLLOWING EARLIER DEMARCHES BY THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND ME, IN WHICH I DREW ON THE ARGUMENTS IN STATE 093100, MOGWE GAVE ME THE GOB POSITION ON THE APPLICATIONS OF THE TWO KOREAS FOR NON-ALIGNED STATUS AT NAC. HE STATED THAT THE GOB WOULD SUPPORT NORTH KOREA, SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA FOR NON-ALIGNED MEMBERSHIP. HE STATED THAT THESE STATES MET THE NON-ALIGNED CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES, FOREIGN TROOPS AND MILITARY PACT. I REITERATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 GABORO 01126 01 OF 02 241846Z

AS I HAD DONE EARLIER THAT NORTH KOREA HAD SIGNED A MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. MOGWE ARGUED THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THESE TREATIES DID NOT VIOLATE THE NON-ALIGNED CRITERIA AND NOTED THAT INDIA HAD A SIMILAR TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I COMMENTED THAT NORTH KOREA WAS A COMMUNIST STATE AND BY DEFINITION ALIGNED AND THAT ITS ADMISSION TO NAC MADE A MOCKERY OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

6. MOGWE INFORMED ME THAT ROMANIA AND THE PHILIPPINES HAD APPLIED FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT LIMA NAC. HE NOTED THAT BOTH WERE MEMBERS OF MILITARY PACTS. HE SAID THE PRECEDENCE FOR THE ADMISSION OF SUCH STATES AS OBSERVERS MUST BE STUDIED. IF

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01126 02 OF 02 241844Z

46

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 GABORONE 1126

ROMANIA MADE A DECLARATION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE WARSAW PACT
AND THE PHILIPPINES FROM SEATO, BOTSWANA MIGHT SUPPORT THEM
AS OBSERVERS AT NAC.

7. MOGWE ALSO SAID THAT AUSTRALIA HAD APPLIED FOR GUEST STATUS
AT NAC LIMA. HE TOLD ME THAT BOTSWANA WOULD NOT OBJECT TO
AUSTRALIAN GUEST STATUS EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A MEMBER OF SEATO.

8. ISRAEL. MOGWE VOLUNTEERED THE GOB POSITION ON ISRAEL. HE
SAID THE GOB FELT IT WAS USELESS TO TRY TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL
ISRAEL FROM THE UN. HE AGREED THAT ONLY THE SECURITY COUNCIL
COULD TAKE SUCH ACTION. MOGWE SAID THAT IF THE OAU CAUCUS IN
LIMA AGREED TO ADHERE TO THE KAMPALA POSITION ON ISRAEL,
BOTSWANA WOULD GO ALONG. HOWEVER, IF EACH OAU STATE WERE LEFT
TO ITS OWN DECISION, BOTSWANA WOULD VOTE FOR A RESOLUTION AT
NAC OR THE UNGA TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL ISRAEL ON THE GROUNDS THAT
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01126 02 OF 02 241844Z

IT HAD CONTINUOUSLY FLOUTED UN RESOLUTIONS. IT TOLD MOGWE THAT THE U.S. WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL. SUCH A MOVE WOULD UNDERMINE THE VIABILITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE UN AS WELL AS THE CURRENT PROCESS AT PEACEMAKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

9. I HAVE BRIEFED THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE FOREGOING; SHE IS INFORMING LONDON AND WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS EARLY NEXT WEEK.

10. COMMENT: I AM SATISFIED THAT THE GOB CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. POSITION ON THE KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED ABOVE. I BELIEVE GOB OFFICIALS CONSIDER SUCH TOPICS AS KOREA IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. OFFICIALS HERE, PARTICULARLY THE YOUNGER ONES IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PRODUCING POSITION PAPERS, FEEL VERY INTENSELY ABOUT APARTHEID AND MINORITY RULE REGIMES ON BOTSWANA BORDERS; THEY WISH TO ENCOURAGE AND REWARD CONCRETE ASSISTANCE RENDERED TOWARD ACHIEVING HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUALITY AND SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOUTHER AFRICA. THEY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCED BY THE FACT THAT NORTH KOREA AND OTHER COMMUNIST STATES PROVIDED COMPLETE MORAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR THE AFRICAN OBJECTIVES OF TRYING TO ISOLATE SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS BY THE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE OF NORTH KOREAN AND OTHER COMMUNIST STATES TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT BOTSWANA'S STATUS AS SOMEWHAT OF A "MAVERICK" IN THE OAU. THIS STATUS, AS EXPRESSED BY AN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, STEMS FROM BOTSWANA'S DEMOCRATIC, FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, ITS CLOSE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND FROM SUCH POLICIES AS THEY BOYCOTT OF THE RECENT KAMPALA OAU SUMMIT. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, GOB FEELS A STRONG DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND OTHER OAU MEMBERS. ALSO PRESIDENT KHAMA IS INVOLVED WITH PRESIDENTS KAUNDA, NYERERE AND SAMORA MACHEL IN TRYING TO WORK OUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA; IN THIS COMPANY THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING HIS NON-ALIGNED CREDIBILITY AND IS SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM BY IDI AMIN AND OTHERS THAT HE IS HOBNOBBING WITH THE ENEMIES OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE.

11. GOB POSITION ON ISRAEL IS PUZZLING BUT PROBABLY INFLUENCED BY SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM AND DESIRE TO BE CONSISTENT IN DEALING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GABORO 01126 02 OF 02 241844Z

WITH TWO STATES WHICH IN THEIR VIEW HAVE FLOUTED UN RESOLUTIONS.

12. UNLESS WE TAKE A MORE CONVINCING AND FORTHCOMING POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, BOTSWANA AND MANY OTHER AFRICAN

STATES WILL BE INCREASINGLY LIKELY TO OPPOSE U.S. POSITIONS IN THE
UN ON NON-AFRICAN ISSUES.

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Message Attributes

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